Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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Z O 181740Z JAN 75 ZFF 6 FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 7028 INFO: RUQMQG/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA FLASH 3207 AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

SECRETATHENS 0477

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PROF, CY

SUBJ: ATTACK ON EMBASSY NICOSIA: MEETING WITH GREEK

FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: STATE 012761

1. I SAW FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS SHORTLY AFTER RECEIVING REFTEL CONCERNING THE ATTACK ON OUR EMBASSY IN NICOSIA. I INFORMED HIM THAT THE CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT IF ANY MEMBERS OF OUR EMBASSY STAFF IN NICOSIA SUFFERED INJURY AS A RESULT OF MOB ACTION THAT OUR EMBASSY WOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM NICOSIA AND THAT WE WOULD TAKE NO FURTHER PART IN THE CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS.

2. BITSIOS UNDERSTOOD THE SERIOUSNESS AND SIGNIFICANCE
OF THE MESSAGE IMMEDIATELY. HE EXPRESSED HIS REGRET AT
WHAT WAS TAKING PLACE IN NICOSIA AND ONCE AGAIN VOICED
STRONG CRITICISM OF THE BRITISH DECISION. HE IMMEDIATELY
TELEPHONED THE GREEK AMBASSADOR IN NICOSIA AND CONVEYED
THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR MESSAGE AND INSTRUCTED HIS AMBASSADOR
TO GET IN TOUCH IMMEDIATELY WITH ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS
ABOUT IT. ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES LATER, WHICH WAS ABOUT
FORTY-FIVE MINUTES AGO, THE GREEK AMBASSADOR TELEPHONED
BACK TO SAY THAT HE HAD TALKED TO ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS
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WHO HAD ASSURED HIM THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN

EMBASSY STAFF WERE SAFE. THE GREEK AMBASSADOR IN NICOSIA ALSO SAID THAT MAKARIOS HAD PROMISED TO TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE STEP TO PROTECT OUR PERSONNEL THERE. THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED TO BITSIOS THAT CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO PROPOSING THAT AMERICAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL IN NICOSIA MOVE FROM THEIR RESIDENCES TO A HOTEL FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS WHERE THEY COULD BE ASSURED FULLEST POSSIBLE PROTECTION.

3. IT HAS TAKEN ME ALMOST FORTY-FIVE MINUTES TO GET BACK TO MY OWN EMBASSY FROM BITSIOS-OFFICE AS A RESULT OF CROWDS ALSO DEMONSTRATING IN ATHENS THIS EVENING, INCLUDING ONE LARGE GROUP OF ABOUT 4,000 THAT HAS JUST GONE BY OUR EMBASSY. WE ARE ALL RIGHT, BUT THE BRITISH EMBASSY SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN A PASTING--WITH MORE IN STORE. MOST OF THE DEMONSTRATORS ARE REPORTED TO BE GREEK CYPRIOTS HERE IN ATHENS. KUBISC

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